

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Medical First Aid Station, Sofia	DATE DISTR.	1 April 1954	
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1. A first aid station, located in a small 1-story building at the corner of Benkovski and Rakovska Streets in Sofia, has a staff of one surgeon, eight general practitioners, one dentist, six medical assistants, and 40 to 50 drivers. They work in shifts of 24 hours each. Each shift has three or four physicians, two or three medical assistants, and at least six drivers. One room of the building is used as a dispensary, one as a pharmacy, and one by the physicians. A garage for ambulances is located close to the station.
2. To make an emergency call to the first aid station, the telephone number 05, 81717, or 72405 is dialed. A physician is sent for serious cases; in other cases a medical assistant is sent to administer first aid. A physician giving first aid must write a detailed report for the head of the first aid station, including the time of the incoming call, the time of departure of the ambulance from the station to the place of the accident, the diagnosis, the treatment administered, and the time of transfer of the patient to a hospital if this is necessary. The number of emergency calls received by the station is between 60 and 150 per day. Accidents at work are very rare, amounting to one or two per month. The station is concerned mainly with heart attacks, appendicitis, and poisonings. Treatment administered by the first aid station, including transfer to a hospital, is free of charge.
3. Every hospital must inform the station three times a day of the number of beds available. The station is connected with the Pirogov Institute (formerly the Red Cross Hospital), located in the center of the city. This hospital has the following departments: Internal diseases, X-ray, pediatrics, surgery (the largest department), urology, orthopedics, traumatic section, treatment of poisoning, and a blood bank.
4. There is a shortage of antibiotics, which are imported from abroad. Penicillin and streptomycin are very difficult to obtain, while other antibiotics are not available at all.

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5. PAS (para amino salicylate), used in the treatment of tuberculosis, is imported from abroad and is available in sufficient quantities. A new Bulgarian drug, Tubigal, has recently been administered to tuberculosis patients also. Streptomycin is used only in very serious cases.
6. Dibazol, a Soviet drug, is used for the external treatment of the nervous system. It appears in the index of drugs.
7. Inoculations against Typhus Abdominalis are administered regularly to the entire population. Vaccinations against smallpox are administered to every child, once at an early age and again when he goes to school. Infants are inoculated against tuberculosis.

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